

## Legislative Bulletin.....January 21, 2004

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### Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today

Total Number of New Government Programs: 0

Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations: \$0

Total Amount of Revenue Reductions: None

Total Increase in Mandatory Spending: None

Total New State & Local Government Mandates: None

Total New Private Sector Mandates: None

### **H.Res. 492—Honoring the contributions of Catholic schools (Vitter)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.Res. 492 makes the following statements regarding Catholic schools:

- Catholic schools are “internationally acclaimed for their academic excellence” and ensure a “broad, values-added education emphasizing the lifelong development of moral, intellectual, physical, and social values in America’s young people;”
- More than 26 percent of school children enrolled in Catholic schools are minorities, and more than 14 percent are non-Catholics; and

- Catholic schools “produce students strongly dedicated to their faith, values, families, and communities by providing an intellectually stimulating environment rich in spiritual, character, and moral development.”

The resolution further states that the House of Representatives “supports the goals of Catholic Schools Week, an event co-sponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops” and “congratulates Catholic schools, student, parents, and teachers across the Nation for their ongoing contributions to education.”

**Additional Background:** January 25-31, 2004, has been designated as Catholic Schools Week by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

**Committee Action:** The resolution was not considered by a committee.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

**Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?:** No.

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## **H.Res. 491—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the benefits of mentoring (Osborne)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.Res. 491 makes the following statements regarding mentoring:

- Mentoring “benefits young people in numerous ways, including improvements in school performance and attendance, self-confidence, attitudes toward relationships with adults, and motivation to reach their potential.”
- There is a mentoring gap “consisting of over 15,000,000 young people who need mentors but do not have them.”
- In an effort to begin closing the mentoring gap, “the House of Representatives on December 8, 2003, approved a measure to significantly increase Federal grant funding for local mentoring organizations to \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2004;” and
- “Nonprofit groups and leading media companies have joined together to designate January 2004 as National Mentoring Month.”

The resolution further states that the House of Representatives “praises those individuals who have already given their time to mentor a child” and “supports efforts to recruit more mentors in the United States.”

**Additional Background:** On January 9, 2004, the President declared January “National Mentoring Month.”

**Committee Action:** The resolution was not considered by a committee.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

**Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?:** No.

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**H.Res. 490—Recognizing and commending the achievements of the  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Jet Propulsion  
Laboratory, and the Mars Exploration Rover mission, and recognizing the  
importance of space exploration (Dreier)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.Res. 490 would resolve that the House:

- “commends the engineers, scientists, and technicians of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory for their years of effort leading up to the successful entry, descent, and landing of the Mars Exploration Rover Spirit on the Martian surface on January 3, 2004;
- “recognizes the importance to the Nation and to humanity of the exploration of space; and
- “honors the achievements of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in expanding our comprehension of the universe and fulfilling the human need to explore and understand.”

**Additional Background:** After a 300-million-mile, half-year journey, Spirit successfully completed entry, descent, and landing on Mars on January 3, 2004, and within hours was beaming photographs of the Martian surface back to Earth. Spirit’s sister rover, Opportunity, landed on the opposite side of Mars on January 24, 2004.

For more details on the rover missions, visit this website:

<http://marsrovers.jpl.nasa.gov/home/>

**Committee Action:** The resolution was referred to the Science Committee but will come directly to the House floor.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution would authorize no expenditure.

**Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?:** No.

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**H.Res. 489—Stating the agreement of the House of Representatives with the sentiment expressed by the Senate in Senate Resolution 281 (*Costello*)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** This resolution would state that the House agrees with the sentiment expressed by S.Res. 281, which honored the late Senator Paul Simon (D-IL). The Senate passed the resolution on December 9, 2003, by unanimous consent.

**Additional Background:** A former newspaper owner, Senator Paul Simon's political career began with his election to the Illinois Legislature in 1954 and continued with his election to the U.S. Senate in 1984. He ran for the 1988 Democrat presidential nomination and retired from Congress in 1997. Paul Simon was the only individual to have served in the Illinois House of Representatives, the Illinois Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the U.S. Senate.

To read Speaker Hastert's statement on the passing of Senator Simon, visit this website: <http://speaker.house.gov/library/misc/031209simon.shtml>

**Committee Action:** The resolution was referred to the House Administration Committee but will come directly to the House floor.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution would authorize no expenditure.

**Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?:** No.

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